UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.27
14 February 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 27th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 11 July 1994, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. RIVERO (Venezuela)

CONTENTS

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEME:

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEME (A/49/204-E/1994/90, A/49/205-E/1994/91):

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (E/1994/58, E/1994/95)

Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director, United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)) said that the misconception that drug control was solely of concern to the law enforcement and health sectors, and to the countries that were directly affected, had been dispelled and replaced by a more comprehensive understanding of the issue. It was now necessary to address the issue of system-wide coordination. That goal must be reassessed on a regular basis; changes in global sentiment, technical discoveries, and unforeseen trends must all be taken into account. The drug control debate must be placed in a more comprehensive and multidimensional context. Otherwise, there was a risk that the illicit drug problem would permanently outgrow the system's ability to contain it.

In response to resolution 6 (XXXVII) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, UNDCP had initiated preparations for an analysis of ways and means to strengthening system-wide cooperation and coordination in the light of existing mandates. The main objective would be to identify the components of other programmes which could usefully include drug-control activities. It was already clear that United Nations agencies would not be able to determine how they could better contribute to the system-wide effort unless they had a precise understanding of the drug problem from a global point of view. UNDCP, as the focal point for all United Nations drug-control activities, had an

important role in that regard. One of its main priorities would be to clarify the conceptual parameters of the illicit drug problem.

In order to lay the foundations for a true and sustainable partnership, United Nations counterparts must recognize the fundamental goals of international drug control. Many of the goals pursued by UNDCP, particularly in such areas as human development, environment and finance, were similar to those pursued by other United Nations entities. Drug control was not limited to policing or medical treatment. Effective drug control meant steering children away from a life of crime and misery, promoting the reintegration of addicts into civil society, helping peasants make a better life, helping countries recover from the ravages of war, preventing financial systems from being infiltrated by criminal organizations, stemming environmental decay and stopping the spread of AIDS. It was only with a shared notion of those objectives that it would be possible to carry out a common, system-wide effort in which each organization played an active part.

The United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (SWAP), in its current form, had reached the limits of its potential. The reasons which had prevented it from developing into a fully useful instrument were the same as those which had hindered inter-agency coordination in the field of drug control. In order to sensitize other partners to shared, system-wide interests, UNDCP had prepared two documents for the World Summit for Social Development, one on the social and economic impact of drug abuse and control, and the other on the links between drugs and development. In addition, it had recently conducted a study on the socio-economic impact of illicit opiates in Pakistan; that study demonstrated that many of the tools of economic analysis could also be applied to drug control.

In the policy dialogue carried out by UNDCP with the programmes, funds and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, a dual-track process of convergence was needed. On the one hand, goals must be further defined at the executive level of their respective secretariats. On the other, experience had shown that the channel of inter-agency dialogue must be expanded,

particularly at the field level. Operational ties should be strengthened on a country-by-country basis in the context of country-level programming consolidation; policy tools like the country strategy notes should increasingly dovetail with national drug-control master plans formulated by Governments, policy framework papers of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and UNDCP Country Programme Frameworks. There could even be cases where inter-agency planning at the field level should accelerate prior to the conclusion of Headquarters formalities. UNDCP's field offices network had recently expanded, and UNDCP would now be able to rely on UNDP resident representatives as well.

The efforts described in the report on the status of international cooperation in drug abuse control within the United Nations system (E/1994/58) represented the first steps in a process expected to be further analysed and developed.

It was essential for UNDCP to build on its partnership with the World Bank and IMF. With the World Bank, and also regional development banks, there was potential for establishing an enhanced division of labour in countries where development and drug-control needs intersected. Illicit drug production and consumption could be effectively addressed through cooperation with the World Bank, since education was a common preventive instrument.

Closer ties were needed with IMF because of the increasing impact which drug-tainted money had on the international financial system; money laundering caused balance-of-payments distortions, and the activities of criminal organizations had disturbing implications for the conduct of monetary policy and for the validity of conventional economic indicators. IMF input in that area of analysis was essential.

Mr. GRAF zu RANTZAU (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, many speakers had agreed that since the drug problem had spread to virtually all countries, it would not be solved without international cooperation.

The European Union supported the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, but felt that its effectiveness must be assessed and was disappointed that only a few agencies had submitted agency-specific implementation plans. The leadership role to be played by UNDCP was a key element of the Plan; since UNDCP depended largely on voluntary contributions it was important that Member States provide it with sufficient resources. Moreover, other funding agencies and the international financial institutions must include elements of the System-Wide Action Plan in their overall strategies and their specific country programmes and must consult UNDCP. Maximum effort would be achieved only if all organizations operating in the field combined their efforts into a tailored approach in line with the national master plans.

The European Union was pleased that UNDCP had been admitted to the meetings of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) and also hoped that the results of the discussions of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) could be made available to the Council for consideration at its 1995 substantive session.

It was important to encourage cooperation with international organizations outside the United Nations system. The European Union felt that the work of the International Narcotics Control Board was particularly important. The international anti-drug conventions were the legal backbone of the global fight against drugs, but a number of States were not yet party to them, while others had ratified the conventions but had not yet enacted implementing legislation. Drug traffickers were quick to move their operations to such countries. This situation must be remedied, and the European Union hoped that the ad hoc intergovernmental advisory group established by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs would make recommendations for implementation of existing international drug control instruments. The European Union was particularly concerned with coordination between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, whose activities were of direct importance to the fight against illicit drugs.

In closing, he appealed to all States to increase their voluntary contributions to UNDCP.

Mr. FLORES OLEA (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Group of Three (Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico) said that the Group firmly supported all initiatives and actions undertaken by the international community to develop international cooperation in the fight against drugs. The exacerbation of the drug phenomenon was alarming: consumption was growing, and efforts to reduce demand and rehabilitate addicts were still inadequate. Measures to combat money-laundering, illegal arms traffic and diversion of chemical substances must be strengthened. The high-level debate at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly had demonstrated the complexity of the drug problem and the firm political will of State to combat it.

The updated SWAP should include an annex with programmes of the agencies, and should particularly stress the important role which should be played by international financial institutions in promoting stability and economic development and combating the drug industry. That involvement was essential in combating drugs in the medium and long term. Judging from the information reproduced in the report of the Secretary-General (E/1994/57), the specialized agencies did not appear to have made a special effort to coordinate their activities; that was regrettable. The multi-agency paper on the social and economic consequences of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse (para. 32) should be completed as soon as possible so that it could be taken into account during the negotiations on the political declaration and programme of action to be adopted at the end of the World Summit for Social Development. The report of the Secretary-General on the status of international cooperation in drug abuse control within the United Nations system (E/1994/58) showed that much still remained to be done.

The Group of Three agreed that it was important for all countries to comply fully with the commitments made at the multilateral level and to carry out action at the national level; such action would constitute a solid basis for the success of coordination efforts in the United Nations system. With

its broad knowledge and experience, UNDCP had a solid basis for drawing up a strategy to promote drug control activities throughout the United Nations system. The priorities defined by the international community in the various instruments on the subject and in the resolutions which had been adopted should help guide those efforts. The Group of Three fully supported resolution 6 (XXXVII) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs requesting the Executive Director of UNDCP to analyse further ways and means of strengthening system-wide cooperation and coordination and supported the request for him to draw up guidelines to enable UNDCP better to fulfil its catalytic role. The Group was gratified that UNDCP and UNESCO had recently signed a memorandum of understanding to exchange information and cooperation in questions relating to the prevention of drug use through education and information. Such agreements were useful instruments for improving coordination among agencies of the system, and the possibility should be explored of signing similar agreements with other agencies, for example, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) which could concentrate, in particular, on international cooperation in the reduction of demand.

The experience acquired by regional bodies in certain aspects of drug control should be enhanced through greater cooperation and coordination with United Nations bodies. For example, mention might be made of the model rules developed by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission within the framework of the Organization of American States. However, it was also necessary to systematize the agreements on international cooperation in the area of drug control in order to gain an overall view of international efforts and facilitate the coordination of agencies and cooperation with Member States. In that respect, the exchange of information was critical. Among the actions identified in part III of the report of the Secretary-General (E/1994/58), those involving dialogue with international financial institutions, the strengthening of inter-agency mechanisms and field coordination were of particular importance.

Mr. EDGREN (Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Policy Planning and Evaluation, United Nations Development Programme) said that with the introduction of special programme resources like for drug abuse control the possibilities of supporting pilot activities and integrating drug-abuse control into UNDP's sustainable human development activities had improved considerably. However, given the limited resources - $3.5 million - in relation to overall need, UNDP had focused the programming of those special resources on aspects related to sustainable development objectives, with priority given to poverty, gender and community-based programmes. UNDP support at the national level was provided through technical assistance programmes, the UNDP field office network and execution by the UNDP Office for Project Services (OPS). Most of UNDP's technical assistance activities had been in the Asia-Pacific and Latin American and Caribbean regions.

UNDP had also suggested that a section of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) should be devoted to important multi-sectoral programmes which supported control and prevention, as such an approach would facilitate coordinated programming with other relevant United Nations agencies under the leadership of the resident coordinator. A revised working arrangement had been agreed between UNDP and UNDCP in October 1993 providing the framework for sharing responsibilities in the field. Country offices had also begun more systematic inter-agency consultations leading to the inclusion of quick-impact projects related to drug control.

Mrs. HORIUCHI (Japan) said that Japan would continue to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to the international struggle against drug abuse by making a contribution in the current year of $5,500,000 to the drug control programme. She hoped that UNDCP would not only make effective use of those resources but would also mobilize more resources from relevant international organizations and bodies within the United Nations system. The international financial institutions, in cooperation with the United Nations Drug Control Programme could play an important role in strengthening alternative development schemes which were regarded as an effective means of

promoting sustainable social development in poverty-stricken areas. Furthermore, those institutions, together with the international community should also actively address the money-laundering problem in the context of their efforts to end drug trafficking. The communique issued following the recent meeting of the Group of Seven confirmed the determination of the seven major industrialized nations to fight money-laundering in connection with the problem of illicit drugs. Since reducing demand was just as important as controlling supply, UNDCP, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, should expand its educational campaigns to heighten public awareness of the use of illicit drugs, assist Member States in building an effective system of law enforcement to control the use of drugs and elaborate effective policies to eliminate transnational drug sales and trafficking.

Mr. CAMARA (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that the drug abuse problem could not be eliminated or reduced without comprehensive national programmes which were closely linked to collaborative international efforts. The responsibility given to UNDCP under General Assembly resolution 45/179 for coordinating and providing effective leadership for all United Nations drug control activities was aimed at coordinating such activities across the United Nations system. In response to the Mexican representative's statement, he noted that FAO and UNDCP had signed an updated memorandum of understanding. He stressed the need for continued discussion on the implementation of inter-agency projects and activities so as to ensure that each agency focused on the component parts where its particular strengths and expertise could be effectively employed. In that connection, FAO had prepared an agency plan as part of the System-Wide Action Plan. A three-page annex to his statement outlined the areas of interest to FAO and its projects and activities.

Mr. GELBARD (United States of America) said that despite the progress made since the establishment of SWAP in 1990, most United Nations agencies still had difficulties translating their commitment under the Plan into action. The United Nations drug control activities were all too often a

series of uncoordinated projects and the challenge of enhancing the conditions for global economic and social development by controlling international drug trafficking was not met because many countries rejected the concept that the narcotics trade drained and distorted national economies. His Government firmly believed that on both developmental and anti-narcotics grounds, the World Bank, regional and multilateral development banks, the United Nations development agencies and the international community as a whole must assign a higher priority to combating drug production and trafficking because it created serious macroeconomic distortions, particularly in weak economies, ate away at social and economic development and diverted resources.

The United States would work closely with the multilateral development banks to integrate drug control objectives into developmental aid. The United Nations agencies should promote broad-based growth that ensured that drug producers had viable income and employment alternatives and that rural communities had the strength to resist pressure to produce narcotics. Successful sustainable development initiatives gave drug producers the choice of switching to legitimate enterprises or fighting the State. In that connection, as strong judicial systems were essential to destroy violent and economically powerful drug syndicates, promotion of respect for the rule of law and human rights was critical.

Concerning the role of United Nations agencies in general in drug control, UNDP must monitor its programmes carefully in order to ensure that they did not contribute to or support drug production. UNICEF could design projects to help drug-addicted and at-risk children while UNESCO could increase awareness of the environmental damage associated with drug production.

As the world's largest illicit drug market, the United States recognized that its first obligation was to address its own drug problem. Consequently, 88 per cent of the $13.2 billion that President Clinton had requested for drug control would be used to fight domestic drug use and trafficking. More emphasis than ever before was being put on demand reduction. United Nations

Member States must speak with one voice and work through the specialized agencies to give high priority to drug control. United Nations drug control efforts must be comprehensive.

Mr. VOICU (Romania) said that international law was crucial to multilateral cooperation which was the linchpin for any positive effort in the fight against drug abuse. In that connection, improving coordination between international and national drug control efforts was critical. That was why his delegation supported a balanced, integrated and global strategy implemented in cooperation with Governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and society as a whole. The economic and political power of drug cartels involved in various types of violent organized crimes was growing and countries which were not parties to international treaties and were affected by both political instability and economic depression were particularly likely to come under their sway. UNDCP must play a key role in the promotion of a partnership between beneficiaries and donors of technical assistance and stress the need to tailor national policies, strategies and regulations to the specific needs of the efforts to combat drug trafficking. Active involvement by the international institutions in the global strategy to fight drugs was an overriding imperative. Regional organizations and arrangements such as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Council of Europe could contribute to the global effort against money-laundering and drug trafficking. The opening of Romania's borders in 1990 had made it vulnerable to drug traffickers. While there was still no market for the sale of drugs in his country, it was being used for the illegal transit of drugs. His Government had taken a number of vigorous measures including the promulgation of new legislation and the establishment of an inter-ministerial coordination body to combat that scourge.

Mr. MARKER (Pakistan) said that Member States should be involved in the formulation and implementation of the various proposals from the earliest stages so as to remove the possibility of any friction due to a lack

of understanding of proposed plans. The current system of communication with Member States, both at the general conceptual level and technical level, should be improved because enhanced awareness would definitely have a positive impact on the allocation of resources for drug control activities. While UNDCP was playing a central role, its powerful mandate was unfortunately not matched by adequate resources. Member States must increase their voluntary contributions to strengthen the role of UNDCP.

One of the successful pioneering efforts that had been made through inter-agency agreements to promote coordination was the establishment of the information inter-agency group on drug control matters in Islamabad referred to in paragraph 25 of the Secretary-General's report (E/1994/57). Pakistan accorded the highest priority to coordination within the State machinery and with sub-regional, regional and international mechanisms. In 1989, a separate ministry, the Narcotics Control Division, had been created which was supported by the Anti-Narcotics Task Force and the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board. Tough measures had been taken in recent years to destroy laboratories and punish drug traffickers and considerable efforts were being focused on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and mass education on the effective prevention of drug abuse. His country was fully cooperating with the Member States of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to combat drug trafficking and had signed and ratified the relevant SAARC Convention. Pakistan firmly believed that the partnerships could bloom into meaningful cooperation if development agencies integrated drug control activities into their systems. Those activities could in turn be integrated into the overall framework of the United Nations Drug Control Programme

Mr. TROTTIER (Canada) said that in order for UNDCP to play its primary role of leading and coordinating all United Nations drug control activities, it required commitment and cooperation from other United Nations agencies, including the international financial institutions. His delegation welcomed the activities undertaken by the United Nations system under the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control; it also welcomed the agreements

between UNDCP and FAO and UNDP, as well as the other agreements planned. His country was encouraged by the fact that the arrangement with UNDP involved the sharing of responsibilities at the field level and by the more systematic inter-agency consultations undertaken by some UNDCP field offices. It was also pleased to note the increasing cooperation between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. However, more could be done.

His delegation was disappointed that some United Nations bodies had not provided input in time for consideration by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in April 1994 concerning their activities related to the System-Wide Action Plan or an indication of forward-looking agency-specific implementation plans. Although admittedly the time-frame for the submission of that input had been short, UNICEF, FAO, the World Bank, IMF and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development should have been involved in the process. His delegation hoped that the observer role now played by UNDCP within the Joint Consultative Group on Policy would encourage greater coordination and integration of drug abuse control into the policies and activities of other United Nations bodies. It noted with interest that drug abuse control would be a separate agenda item at the forthcoming session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination. In conclusion, he underscored the importance of coordination at the national, regional and international levels in order significantly to reduce and ultimately eradicate the cultivation, manufacture, traffic in and use of illicit drugs and the abuse of licit drugs.

Mr. MAYRHOFER-GRUNBUHEL (Observer for Austria) said that document E/1994/58 was refreshingly frank in describing the System-Wide Action Plan as a patchwork of drug-related projects and in noting that the length of progress reports in the United Nations system tended to be in inverse proportion to the progress being reported. The report identified all the major elements for the success of UNDCP's coordination efforts.

He understood the crucial coordination and leadership role of UNDCP and said that coordination meant enlisting the cooperation and goodwill of the

partners and establishing a framework within which they could coordinate their activities. Appropriate drug information systems were very important in that regard. Training, which in some contexts was better referred to as "awareness raising", was particularly useful at the country level, and his delegation encouraged UNDCP to systematically arrange seminars for resident representatives in the countries most directly concerned in order to emphasize the importance of building drug control elements into UNDP country programmes. UNDCP also should ensure the uncompromising professionalism, reliability and impartiality of its own staff and strive to overcome any remaining management problems. Successful coordination ultimately depended on the coordination of government policies in the various international organizations in which countries participated.

Donors, too, should be concerned with coordination and should speak with one voice in the relevant international forums. They also should strive to ensure that drug-control efforts undertaken by bodies outside the United Nations system did not duplicate the work under way within the system. His delegation was pleased that recent contacts between the Financial Action Task Force and UNDCP had paved the way for a clear division of labour between them and hoped that a similar division could be agreed upon with the European Union and the Pompidou Group.

His delegation strongly endorsed the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union concerning coordination with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. UNDCP also should actively endeavour to obtain an overview of all international drug control activities and keep the international community involved, highlighting perceived instances of duplication, with a view to avoiding overlapping or duplication of work.

His delegation strongly supported the master plan concept and the bottom-up approach. It congratulated UNDCP on its excellent report and particularly appreciated the fact that the Executive Director had, in referring extensively to the World Summit for Social Development, established the indispensable social context of the drug problem.

UNDCP had clearly identified the basic elements of a workable strategy for coordination. All components of the United Nations system should support the effort, and his delegation looked forward to the meeting of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the issue scheduled for the spring of 1995. By that time, it was to be hoped that the System-Wide Action Plan would have developed into a workable framework for coordination and cooperation at all levels.

Mr. AHMED (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)) said that thus far ESCAP had focused on the demand side of drug control. Its experience had shown, however, that demand reduction should not be examined in isolation from the supply side of the drug problem. ESCAP's Indicative Plan of Action on Drug Demand Reduction focused on information requirements, national policy-making and coordination mechanisms, drug abuse prevention measures and regional collaboration. ESCAP and UNDCP had collaborated in a number of regional and subregional activities to implement the Indicative Plan.

In the field of policy-making and coordination, ESCAP actively supported UNDCP's master plan approach. The organization and implementation of all ESCAP's community-based drug demand reduction interventions had been fully coordinated with the demand reduction activities outlined in the master plan.

In the field of drug abuse prevention, ESCAP implemented a subregional strategy as part of the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly in February 1991. Demand reduction activities were under way in border areas in China and Myanamar, and similar work was about to start in border areas of Myanamar and Thailand. Subregional activities for the Pacific countries were also under consideration.

The establishment of a regional UNDCP centre in Bangkok permitted an ongoing exchange of information and experience to reduce the risk of duplication of efforts, particularly in the South-East Asian subregion. A constant dialogue, in particular, with the other UNDCP field representatives in the Asia-Pacific region, including those in India, Pakistan and Uzbekistan,

was required in order to maximize the comparative advantage of each organization. ESCAP therefore welcomed the UNDCP initiative to convene expert forums on demand reduction in South Asia later that year and in South-East Asia, South-West Asia and Central Asia in 1995 and 1996. ESCAP's collaboration with UNDCP in drug abuse control was well established at the operational and policy levels. In order to improve cooperation with other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations, ESCAP had convened an Inter-agency Meeting on Strengthening Coordination at the Regional Level in May 1994. The Meeting had decided to establish an ad hoc mechanism on collaboration for which UNDCP would act as the lead agency. ESCAP also looked forward to collaboration on policy development at the regional and subregional levels and welcomed the development of agency-specific implementation plans for inclusion in the updated System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.

Mr. YE Dabo (China) said that it was important to review the status of international cooperation in drug-abuse control within the United Nations system given the economic, political, social, environmental and other challenges posed by the drug problem. Integrated measures were needed, not only in order to strengthen coordination and cooperation, but also to permit concerted and forceful actions. He commended UNDCP on its achievements thus far. Many of the suggestions contained in document E/1994/58 were both practical and necessary. His delegation agreed that top priority should be given to clarifying the strategic goals and priorities of UNDCP and the United Nations system. Those goals and priorities should be based on the priorities and goals determined at the national and regional levels. In recent years, UNDCP had provided appropriate strategic direction in fostering subregional drug control cooperation. He referred in that connection to a number of agreements on cooperation in drug control involving countries in Asia. His delegation supported UNDCP's efforts to strengthen its cooperation with other agencies and further promote subregional cooperation.

His delegation hoped that the System-Wide Action Plan would be further strengthened and that the United Nations would enhance its cooperation with all relevant agencies, including human rights agencies, with a view to improving the coordination of drug-control policies. It also agreed that it was essential to enhance coordination of drug-control efforts at the national level. Countries should be encouraged to adhere to the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

Mr. BAKJAJI (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)) described the radical transformation which the social structure of Western Asia had been undergoing and said that social, economic and political developments in the region had aggravated the drug abuse problem. The increase in drug abuse among youth was of particular concern. Since the region covered by ESCWA included areas of drug production and transit, efforts to reduce supply and trafficking generally received higher priority and greater resources than those aimed at stemming demand. Nevertheless, the drug supply and trafficking in the region had been increasing steadily.

ESCWA's activities in the field of drug abuse control had been limited in scope owing to limited resources and to the emphasis placed on social development issues. However, a comprehensive study carried out in 1992 on demand and supply reduction had evaluated national policies, programmes and services for reducing drug abuse and its findings would provide guidelines for the development of national policies and programmes in the region. A follow-up study published in 1993, financed by UNDCP and the United Nations Youth Fund, had examined epidemiological aspects of drug abuse among youth in the region and had evaluated available prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services, including reintegration programmes in selected countries. With regard to regional cooperation, ESCWA had signed an agreement with the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for future collaboration in crime prevention and drug abuse control in the region.

Although all the countries of the region had laws dealing with drug abuse, their programmes and policies were fragmented. Only limited health education programmes existed in some countries, and there were inadequate rehabilitation facilities and prevention programmes. In many countries, the private sector dealt with drug abuse, which meant that most services were inaccessible to the majority of drug abusers.

Mr. SAHRAOUI (Observer for Algeria) commended UNDCP on its achievements in combating drug abuse and said that the resources and means at its disposal should be augmented. Nevertheless, as the report of the Secretary-General indicated, much remained to be done, at the national and intergovernmental levels and within the United Nations system. Commitments at the national level were as important as effective action by the United Nations system. At the national level, the political will to combat the drug problem must be supported by strategies which could be translated into master plans, the establishment of executing bodies and increased monitoring of drug-related activity. The ratification of the relevant international instruments would strengthen the effort.

His delegation agreed with the recommendation in document E/1994/58 (para. 40) that the process for preparing master plans and UNDCP's capacities in that regard should be reviewed and consideration given to a specific budget or source of funds for UNDCP support to the process. Those steps were particularly important since the developing countries, in particular, the least developed nations, including those of Africa, did not have the means to prepare master plans. Lastly, the proposal to establish an information database within UNDCP and its partner United Nations organs was welcome, although it fell short of the recommendations in General Assembly resolution 48/112, in particular, section IV, paragraphs 7 and 8.

Mr. REZVANI (Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran) said that drug abuse was a serious challenge to the international community. The last decade had seen a dramatic increase in illicit drug activities and drug

related crimes; drug abuse was costly on both the economic and the human level.

The drug control campaign could not be won without concerted international action. In line with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/12, the members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) attached great importance to the role of the United Nations and in particular that of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in coordinating international activities for control of illicit drugs. The latter United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) should monitor implementation of the Global Programme of Action which outlined action to be taken at the national, regional and international levels.

The Islamic Republic of Iran supported the idea of master plans for combating illicit drug activities but recognized that limited financial resources would hamper the preparation of such plans in some countries. Since UNDCP had no specific budget for pursuing the initiative of master plans, countries able to do so must provide the necessary financing.

Illicit drug production and trafficking created problems for countries in the ECO region. As such activity became more lucrative, drug-trafficking groups had become more professional and better financed. The ECO member countries had decided to prepare a comprehensive regional plan for combating this threat and to establish a committee for the prevention of drug abuse. The objectives of the Committee were to increase cooperation among ECO member States, to involve all the members, particularly the Central Asian republics, in combating drug abuse, to control the illicit traffic in drugs, to cooperate in rehabilitation of addicts, and to enhance cooperation with United Nations agencies, the Customs Cooperation Council and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). The UNDCP Regional Office for South-West Asia had initiated a memorandum of understanding for strengthening drug law enforcement capacities in border areas between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan. His delegation hoped that with international assistance, such initiatives could be extended to the other countries of the ECO region.

Mr. CHAMBERS (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that drug abuse was a major threat which not only endangered individual health and welfare, but reduced the possibilities for human development and productivity. Drug-related criminal activities deprived individuals of their basic human rights, and drug traffickers exploited poverty to promote cultivation of illicit crops.

Alarmed by the mounting threat that drug abuse posed for human rights, ILO would support all international drug control activities; however it could make its greatest contribution in the area of demand reduction. Activities must be carried out on two levels: elimination of the root causes of drug abuse through development of human resources and improved working and living conditions, and assistance to individuals who had fallen victim to drugs, and their families. ILO would provide community services, public information and education to discourage drug use.

ILO followed two major lines of activity in drug abuse control: rehabilitation programmes to assist recovering addicts in social integration through work, and prevention and assistance programmes in the workplace to reduce drug and alcohol abuse among workers. Previously the emphasis had been on punishment and isolation of the addicts, which was both expensive and counterproductive. Interaction between the recovering addict and the community was essential. The recovering addict must adjust to family life, build new social networks, and find and hold a job. For the worker, drug abuse could mean loss of job and income and breakdown in relations with other workers; it entailed anguish for the worker's family, expense for society, and a serious liability for employers since it gave rise to accidents at the workplace and loss of productivity. But the workplace was also an appropriate context for addressing the problem.

There must be interaction between initiatives in the workplace and rehabilitation programmes in the community; ILO was following that approach in some 40 countries in cooperation with other United Nations agencies and international organizations. Collaboration between ILO and UNDCP was

particularly fruitful; it was based on a partnership approach and focused on aspects of the demand reduction continuum in which ILO had experience; ILO had contributed to the System-Wide Action Plan and felt that a partnership approach was the key to the future of the Plan.

The series of subregional consultations which had been launched by UNDP provided a concrete opportunity for demand reduction. Such collaboration was a perfect means of development of inter-agency action within the System-Wide Action Plan in response to the needs of Member States.

Ms. LAHNALAMPI (Observer for Finland), speaking on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland, said that since UNDCP depended primarily on voluntary contributions, its role should be primarily that of a catalyst. A distinction must be made between general coordination and coordination of specific projects and programmes. More intensive coordination at United Nations Headquarters level and at regional and country levels was required, and a more integrated approach was needed.

At the field level, the United Nations institutions must ensure consistency with the efforts of other international institutions, and the narcotics issue must be integrated into the country strategy notes. The United Nations resident representatives should promote synergy of drug control activities among the organizations of the United Nations system, including the International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Drug control programmes could be integrated into health, education and rural development project so as to increase the impact of multilateral drug control efforts. She appealed to all countries to increase their voluntary contributions to UNDCP.

Mr. ORDZHONIKIDZE (Russian Federation) said that the globalization of the phenomenon of drug abuse was giving rise to legitimate concern in the international community. Narcotic drugs were a threat not only to the health and lives of millions of people, but also the political stability of States. In the Russian Federation, the situation had sharply deteriorated in recent times. Trade in narcotic drugs had amounted to $150 million in 1993 and drug-related crime had increased by 83 per cent compared with the figures for 1992.

The increasing attention paid to Russia by the international drug business was linked with its geographical situation at the intersection of transport routes and the potentially large demand for narcotic drugs, as well as the open borders within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

In 1993, an outline for a State policy on drug control had been adopted in the Russian Federation, as a basis for a long-term national drug abuse control strategy in the legislative, law-enforcement, customs and health spheres, and in questions of international cooperation. On that basis, a programme of comprehensive measures to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking had been formulated for 1994-1996. Existing anti-drug legislation was also being improved and brought in line with international standards.

The strengthening of regional cooperation in drug abuse control was a major goal of the Russian Federation, which was actively involved in collective action within the Council of Europe; great efforts were also being made to establish a collective protection system within CIS. Since 1992 there had been an agreement on cooperation among the internal affairs ministries of 13 CIS States in controlling illicit trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic substances. In Moscow, a bureau to combat organized crime in the CIS countries had been established which was also concerned with combatting the drug business.

No efforts at the national, bilateral and regional levels would yield the desired results unless they were reinforced at the global level. The United Nations had a unique contribution to make to cooperation in that area and was the centre of coordination of international action. The experience acquired by the United Nations should be effectively used at the national level. A key role in determining overall anti-drug policy should continue to be played by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Russia had taken an active part in formulating the recommendations and decisions at the Commission's thirty-seventh session and, in particular, supported the Commission's balanced approach to the supply and demand of narcotic drugs, halting illicit traffic in narcotic substances, and socio-medical issues of the treatment of drug

addicts. At the same time, it firmly opposed attempts to legalize the non-medical use of narcotic drugs and remove them from strict State control. The Russian Federation was prepared to take an active part in the working group on maritime cooperation. His delegation believed that it would be worth taking up the useful ideas and proposals put forward by the Chairman of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

His delegation supported the efforts of UNDCP to develop SWAP. The formulation of guidelines to enable UNDCP to fulfil more effectively the role of coordinator and catalyst of activity in that sphere by other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system should be accelerated. The Russian Federation also hoped that UNDCP would show a greater understanding of its problems and would pay attention to the implementation of projects already identified. For its part, Russia was prepared to continue its cooperation, including cooperation in identifying new long-term areas of joint action.

His delegation shared the concern that over 20 years since the adoption of the convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, some of the main producer and exporter countries had still not become parties to it and had not introduced appropriate measures of control. That situation undermined the operation of the international system of control. Russia was in favour of universal membership in the basic international anti-drug conventions.

Work was being completed on Russia's adherence to the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. At the same time, his delegation believed that consideration should be given to formulating a new universal convention which would combine all the existing multilateral treaties on narcotic drugs. Efforts to improve the system of international cooperation in combating narcotic drugs would be successful only if the largest possible number of States took part in that process. The Russian Federation, for its part, was prepared to continue to contribute to strengthening that process.

Ms. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Observer for Kazakhstan) said that her delegation supported the basic recommendations made in the Secretary-General's

report (E/1994/58) and fully agreed that increasing efforts must be made by the entire world community to counter the global drug threat. In its statement on behalf of the member States of CIS at the high-level debate at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly her delegation, recognizing the need for international action, had stressed the coordinating role of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in solving the global problem of narcotic drugs. Her delegation agreed that UNDCP had a special role to play in ensuring coordination and effective leadership within the United Nations system. It was essential that coordination efforts should be directed towards common strategic goals and priorities and should be carried out on the basis of a common understanding of the scale and nature of the problem of narcotic drugs within the framework of agreed strategies at the international, regional, subregional and especially national levels. Her delegation also agreed that coordination efforts should be preventive in nature, and should promote measures that were mutually reinforcing.

Her delegation appreciated the work carried out by UNDCP to give more practical content to the work of the United Nations in that area, strengthen its coordinating function and provide assistance to the countries with economies in transition, particularly of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In May 1994, the Executive Director of UNDCP had visited Alma Ata in order to study the drug situation in the region and discuss a broad range of problems linked with the cultivation, production, transport and trade of narcotic substances. Special attention had been paid to the problem of controlling the transit of chemical components and with particular reference to equipment necessary for drug manufacture, and to the drug situation in Kazakhstan and the country's geographical situation. Concern had been expressed that in the very near future the potential of the Chu valley in southern Kazakhstan could be used by local and international drug dealers to considerably increase the production and consumption of narcotic drugs (over 138,000 hectares in the valley were devoted to hemp cultivation). In the course of the visit, international aspects of Kazakhstan's cooperation in drug

abuse control, the drug situation in the world and the efforts of the world community to combat the drug trade at the regional and international [illegible] had been discussed. Agreement had been reached on providing Kazakhstan with the latest world information on the problems of drug abuse control, training and refresher training for specialists from the relevant ministries of the Republic, and legal consultations on improving Kazakhstan's legislation in controlling the drug business. Her Government was particularly grateful that UNDCP was considering the possibility of allocating financial resources in support of Kazakhstan's state drug control programme. Kazakhstan was willing to further develop its close cooperation with UNDCP and other specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system.

Mr. ANSARI (India) praised the work of UNDCP and its Director in coordinating drug control activities within the United Nations system. In order to be addressed comprehensively the drug menace must be seen in its totality. His delegation favoured cooperation between the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, under the aegis of UNDCP, in order to tackle all aspects of the drug problem, including terrorism, money laundering and arms trade.

Drug abuse affected all economies and societies, both developed and developing, and was a threat to the development process in developing countries. UNDCP, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, should assess the impact of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse, alternative development schemes in areas of illicit cultivation, and the fight against money laundering and related crimes.

His delegation stressed the importance of cooperation between UNDCP and the intergovernmental organizations and States concerned. The role of UNDCP in promoting the System-Wide Action Plan should not undermine the importance of the Global Programme of Action. Regional approaches to the drug problem could succeed only if all aspects were anlaysed and if full cooperation of the countries involved was attained.

His delegation supported the Secretary-General's suggestion that a drug information database should be set up under UNDCP auspices to cover the spread of AIDS, juvenile crime, drug cartels, terrorist activities, drug-related arms trade and money laundering, financial and criminal organizations involved in drug-related transactions, new roots of the drug trade, and Government policies for drug control.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.